

Tuolumne County
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DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL
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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF TUOLUMNE

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September 20, 2011

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Delta Stewardship Council
980 9th Street, Suite 1500
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Fifth Draft of Delta Plan

Dear Council Members:

As a significant contributor of water resources to the Delta, Tuolumne County wants to assure the water interests of upstream regions are properly addressed by the Delta Stewardship Council's Delta Plan. The current Fifth Draft of the Delta Plan continues to improve upon previously drafted plans, but the plan does not provide sufficient assurances for a long term, dependable and affordable water supply for Tuolumne County residential and agricultural uses.

Predictability of water is essential for good planning decisions. The County's primary water supplier, Tuolumne Utilities District, foresees difficulty in projecting water availability and difficulty in making long term infrastructure planning. This will have ripple effects in the County Board of Supervisors' responsibilities in the area of land use planning and development.

The plan discusses water supply reliability as it applies to water exporters; however, state law specifically mentions improved statewide water supply reliability. What about water reliability of the upstream water contributors such as Tuolumne County. Without the water from the Sierra Nevada, there is no water to export. Therefore, the water analysis should place greater attention to assuring self sufficiency of the water contributors before promising that water elsewhere.

A recently drafted Alternative Delta Plan submitted by the Ag-Urban coalition contains many solutions which meet both the upstream users/suppliers goals as well as those of the Delta itself. There is a clear road map for achieving near-term, medium-term, and long-term actions. Coordination among agencies is encouraged using a public process and performance measures.

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The Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors encourages including the concepts contained in the Alternative Delta Plan. The Board also endorses the comments contained in the letters from the Regional Council of Rural Counties and Tuolumne Utilities District (copies attached). Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Delta Plan and we look forward to seeing changes reflective of the comments found above.

Thank you,


John L. Gray, Chairman

I hereby certify that according to the provisions of Government Code Section 25103, delivery of this document has been made.

By: 
ALICIA L. JAMAR
Clerk of the Board